GEORGE W. MELVILLE.

CHIEF ENGINEER OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY.

A Short Story of His Eventful Life—Has Accomplished Wonders in Mechanical Lines—His Arctic Explorations Full of Thrilling Adventures.

GEORGE WALace Melville, whom President Cleveland has reappointed engineer-in-chief of the navy with the relative rank of commodore, has lived a remarkable life. It was he who designed the machinery of the San Francisco, which is the fastest ship in the navy. He has accomplished wonders in the mechanical line, but the chief interest about him centers in his arctic voyages. His first trip to the north was as chief engineer of the Tigress, which sailed to find the ill-fated Polaris. Captain De Long, of the Jeanette, induced Melville to accompany him on that expedition. When the Jeanette was wrecked the survivors in three boats made for the Asiatic shore. Melville brought his boat and its occupants to a place of safety, and then returned through the arctic night to search for the men in the other two boats. His manliness and devotion on that occasion is a glory for American manhood. When he and his companions landed on Henrietta Island he unfurled the stars and stripes on that soil

GEORGE W. MELVILLE.

in the name of the United States. His noble effort to find De Long and the others was mentioned in terms of extravagant praise in the forty-eighth congress. In the great Greely relief expedition Commodore Melville was the chief engineer of the Thetis, and in this enterprise his skill in the fitting out and forcing of the ship had much to do with the success of the undertaking. The fifty-first congress in 1891 recognized his splendid energy in the De Long expedition by advancing him in grade on the list of chief engineers of the navy. Melville was born in the City of New York in 1841. He attended the common schools there and was apprenticed in the machine shop of James Binnis. In 1861 he entered the navy as assistant engineer, and his fertility in resource caused him to advance rapidly. He is now as high in the service as he can get.

English and French Soldiers.

Dr. Lemure in a recent article contributed to a medical paper, draws a comparison between the losses of the English army during the Ashantee war some years ago and those of the French forces in Madagascar. The mortality among the British was, from the doctor's showing, one man in sixty. In the Madagascar expedition, according to the admission of the government, one man out of every four died. Dr. Lemure points out that the climate of the Ashantee country is every whit as deadly as that of Madagascar, and he contributes the comparatively low rate of mortality among the soldiers of the English expedition under Lord (then Sir Garnet) Wolseley to the fact that they were well looked after. The contrary was the case in Madagascar. The truth of this last part of the doctor's observations is borne out by the facts which are published almost daily. Of 150 men forming the Tenth squadron of the Chasseurs d'Afrique only twenty have arrived home safely. This is all the more surprising, as the soldiers of the famous African cavalry regiment were supposed to be inured to a tropical climate.

Robert Todd Lincoln.

The above is a good likeness of Robert Todd Lincoln, son of the martyred president of the United States. Mr. Lincoln is a resident of Chicago. His law business brings him an income of $75,000 a year. He is the special attorney of the Chicago gas trust. He recently declined to have his name go before the national republican convention.

Graduates to Engage in Coffee Growing

After graduation in June several Trinity and Amherst men are going to Mexico to engage in the business of growing coffee. The young men are prepared to put their money into the undertaking.

COPPER-BOTTOMED SHIPS.

New Process for Incasing the Hulls of Vessels to Guard Against Barnacles.

(From the Pittsburg Dispatch.)

Considering the fact that the growth of barnacles and other animals and vegetable matter below the water line of ships not plated with copper will sometimes attain the thickness of two or more inches, weighing as much as twenty-three tons, and necessitating a cost, for docking and cleaning of $10,000 to $12,000, the desirability of a cheap and expeditious method of coppering a ship's bottom is evident. Some time ago, it was proposed to carry out this process electrolytically, but the idea was not received without criticism. It has, however, been so persistently followed up by its originator that a plant for the deposition of copper on ships' plates by an electrolytic method is now in actual operation. The coating deposited adheres so firmly as to make its removal very difficult; in fact, it is claimed that the copper becomes practically a part of the steel plate when the process is complete.

The copper is applied to the completed and not to the separate plates, and hence existing vessels may take advantage of this method to save dockage. The possibilities of the process are not confined to steel vessels; for wooden vessels may be coppered by this method if their sides are first treated with plumbago. To prepare the sides of a steel vessel for receiving its coat of copper, shallow baths, averaging, say, sixty square feet, rectangular in shape, and open on one side, are made water tight by a coating of tar, and are provided on their edges with heavy soft rubber gaskets.

In the bottom of the bath are two pipes, through which the electrolyte is circulated. The bath is held up against the side of the vessel by poles. It is first filled with a pickling mixture composed of dilute sulphuric acid, and this remains in contact with the plates about twelve hours, after which it is removed, and the plate is scoured with sand and soda. If a sulphate bath were then applied a coating would be deposited, but such coating, owing to the free acid of the mixture would readily peel off. To avoid this a preliminary coating is deposited by the use of cyanide instead of sulphate of copper. Copper electrodes are placed in the bath, and proper connection is made with the dynamo which furnishes the electrolyzing current. The sulphate bath is applied for forty-eight hours, and when the process is complete, a coating of three thirty-seconds to one-eighth of an inch is deposited over the whole surface. The process is said to save its cost many times over, besides making great economy of time possible.

A FARMER PRESIDENT.

The Transvaal Chief Executive a Tiller of the Soil.

President Kruger of the South African republic is almost 70 years old. He

PRESIDENT KRUGER.

has served his country as chief executive for seven years, this being his second term in office. He was a farmer prior to his election, as have been all of the presidents of that tight little republic. Lawyers, bankers and speculators are barred from public office in that country. Its per capita wealth is greater than that of any country in the world. President Kruger was born in Pennsylvania in 1820.

A Newspaper on Linen.

A novelty in journalistic enterprise comes from Spain. It is a weekly illustrated "paper" printed on linen. The journal is appropriately entitled La Tela Coriada and is sold at 2½ pence. The price is modest enough in view of the peculiar advantages which are offered to subscribers. From an article on "Hygiene and Journalism" we learn that the reader has but to send his copy to the laundress after perusal in order to transform it into a superb pocket handkerchief. It will, moreover, be useful for dusting one's hat, wiping away a tear, making one's tender adieux, taking part in popular demonstrations and "preserving diplomatic documents." Although its special applicability to the last-named purpose is not very clear, the Tela Cortada must be credited with considerable originality in its aim of extending the sphere of usefulness of the press.

"Government by the People."

The movement toward the municipalization of quasi-public works seems to be spreading. Before the Boston city council is a petition from the East Boston Trade association for the establishment of gas and electric light plants in that section of the city to be maintained by the municipality. It is supported by many prominent citizens who think the experiment worth trying.

Science in Madagascar.

A movement is on foot in Paris to send out to Madagascar a scientific mission. There will be two geologists, to study the soils and subsoils; two doctors, to study the diseases peculiar to Madagascar; two mining engineers, two botanists, two surveyors, two ethnographists, and so on.

A PRETTY POPULIST.

THE BEAUTIFUL WIFE OF SENATOR MARION W. BUTLER.

How She Met and Loved the Poor but Brilliant Young Country Editor—His Subsequent Rise to National Fame and Honor.

WHEN Miss Florence Faison, a daughter of one of the finest families in Virginia, met Marion Butler, that young man was a poor, obscure fellow who was trying to support a large family of brothers and sisters by editing a country paper in North Carolina. At that time the aristocratic Miss Faison little imagined that she would one day be Mrs. Marion Butler. Butler saw and loved, and at once struck in boldly and told Florence exactly what was in his soul. She listened and loved him for his love of her. They became engaged and her people fought the match furiously. But she would not be gainsaid, and so they were married. Before the honeymoon was over Butler ran for the United States senate on the ticket of the Farmers' Alliance. He was elected. Mrs. Butler has the distinction of being the wife of the youngest member of the senate. Her husband was elected not three years ago, and his election was the outcome of a notable fusion between the populists and the republicans. The fusionists divided the two senatorships between them and carried the state. Butler was born in 1863, and was hence a senator at the age of 31. Not since the days of Henry Clay has there been such a young graybeard in the senate. He had just reached the constitutional age of 30 when he was elected. He and his wife live in a pretty house on Q street in Washington, and have a girl ten months old.

MRS. MARION W. BUTLER.

A. W. TERRELL.

The American Minister to the Capital of the Mahomedans.

Alexander W. Terrell, the American minister to Turkey, has been a very busy man of late. It is said that during the heat of the recent disturbances within the domain of the "unspeakable" he has been on terms of intimate friendship with the porte. Mr. Terrell

MINISTER TERRELL.

was appointed by President Cleveland in 1893.

Low Temperature in Chemistry.

M. Raoul Pictet, who has done much original chemical work at low temperatures, suggests that by making use of low temperatures syntheses may be obtained which would be otherwise impossible. In many chemical operations the heat generated so raises the general temperature of the bodies acted upon that all control over the combination is lost. At very low temperatures, however, all chemical action ceases. By choosing the right temperature, therefore, reaction between chemicals may be made as slow as desired. By this means M. Pictet has effected combinations that are impossible at ordinary temperatures.

British Columbia and Italy.

Sir Charles Tupper recently said that he found vegetation of all kinds much more advanced in Victoria, British Columbia, in April than in Italy on the same date in the following year.

LEECH AS A WEATHER PROPHET

Dr. Merryweather's Ingenious Contrivance—Experiments Seriously Made.

The medicinal leech is still left on the list of weather prophets, though he has no doubt had his powers exaggerated, and two books have been written about his behavior during changes of weather, says Nature. One is by Mrs. Woollams, who during a long illness watched a leech in a bottle and carefully noted what it did, and the other is by a gentleman at Whitby, who came to the conclusion that the leeches could be made to give audible and useful storm warnings.

So he contrived an instrument. No one would imagine from its appearance what its use could be. It consisted of twelve glass bottles, each containing a leech in water and arranged in a circle in order, as the humane inventor states, that the leeches may see each other and not endure the affliction of quite solitary confinement—this rather reminds us of Isaak Walton, who told his pupil to put the hook into the worm "tenderly, as if he loved it." In each bottle was a metal tube of a particular form, which was made somewhat difficult for a leech to enter, but into which it would endeavor somehow to creep before a thunderstorm, according to its nature.

In each tube was a small piece of whalebone, to which a gilt chain was attached, and so arranged on the mousetrap principle that when the whalebone was moved a bell at the top of the apparatus was rung by means of the chain. There were twelve leeches, so that every chance was given that one at least would sound a storm signal. The author called this apparatus the "tempest prognosticator," a name which he preferred—and I think we shall agree with him—to that of atmospheric electric telegraph conducted by animal instinct. He went on to state in his little book that he could, if required, make a small leech ring the great bell of St. Paul's in London as a signal of an approaching storm. The book is written in all seriousness, and a number of letters are appended from gentlemen who certify that correct atmospheric indications were at various times given by the leeches. The name of the inventor of this ingenious contrivance was Dr. Merryweather—himself a learned leech.

Why Oysters Suffer from Drought.

An intelligent Claiborne oyster packer gives these as the reasons why the oysters are so poor at this time:

"First the excessive droughts of the summer and fall, and, second, the singular fact, that this year, particularly since the beginning of summer, the Chesapeake tides have been extremely moderate, not more than eighteen inches between high and low water any time at the maximum. As the oyster is stationary and cannot go in pursuit of food, the food must be brought to the oyster. Heavy rains sweeping down from the uplands over the oyster bottoms bring food, so does the agitation of the waters by rains, windstorms and currents.

"In our waters the tides produce the currents and it can easily be seen that when the tides rise and fall three feet a much stronger current is produced than when only at eighteen inches. Two or three heavy rains, some violent windstorms stirring up the water from surface to bottom and a succession of strong tides would soon fatten the oysters. Were the oysters fat there would be enough in our waters for the season's demand. In their present condition, if it remains so, there will not be. When a packer gets an order now for 100 gallons of oysters it will take 175 bushels to fill it, whereas, if they were in prime condition, 100 bushels would do it."—Baltimore Sun.

Sunday Observance.

The American Sunday should be regarded as a day of rest. The wheels of industry should be closed, and the day should be spent in rest, recreation and prayer. All mankind should unite in offering up their hearts to God in praise and adoration. Every citizen throughout America should identify himself with the American Sunday. We are called upon not to celebrate, but to oppose the celebration of the European Sunday. All Christians should vigorously oppose even the slightest introduction of the foreign Sunday in America.—Rev. Father Mark.

HOODOOED BY AN OPAL

SHACKAMAXON CAN EXPLAIN TALE OF WOE.

Collided with Everything Simply Because an Unlucky Jewel Was Aboard—Sorrows of Men Who Wore It—All the Ills of Mankind.

A CERTAIN small stone set as a scarf-pin is the avowed hoodoo of the Ellis Island steamboat Shackamaxon, and is said to be responsible for all the disasters recently reported as having occurred to that steamboat, on which Dr. Joseph H. Senner, the United States Commissioner of Immigration, and so many others risked their lives until she was taken off. The hoodoo stone is an opal, now in the possession of J. J. Hampton, one of the Ellis Island officers, says New York Journal.

Mr. Hampton said that while the stone was his property, he would not keep it in his possession for any consideration. He vows that bad luck attaches to it and disaster follows it. Consequently he keeps it in a phial, carefully corked and wrapped up in a dark cloth, as it is claimed the light has an effect on the opaline brilliancy of the stone, and the more brilliant it is the greater the danger following it. The opal was innocently worn on board the Shackamaxon during all the recent disasters to that boat. Engineer Delaney was wearing the scarfpin containing the hoodoo opal on board the "Shack" when the last smash-up occurred. Delaney had purchased the pin from Hampton at a reasonable price, knowing of its history of attendant danger, but when he got nearly killed in that accident nothing would induce him, he said, to keep the stone.

Eugene Gilles, of No. 600 West Forty-seventh street, who is the chief electrician on Ellis Island, and who says he had formerly no superstition whatever, next purchased the pin, with the understanding that he should keep it a week on trial, and if nothing of evil befell him in that time he was to pay for it. The first day he wore it he fell from an electric light pole on the island and was severely injured. He attributed his mishap to the opal, and immediately returned the pin to Hampton, saying he would not have it as a gift.

Hampton, who was mate of the steamer Mattewan last summer, says he found the scarfpin on board the Mattewan, and on the very day he found it the steamer, which was plying to and from Glen Island, ran into a coal dock at pier 7, Hoboken, and was badly damaged. Several people were thrown from their feet and some from seats, and a panic followed among the passengers, and two women fainted. "Some days after, on August 6 of last year," said Hampton, "the boiler of the Mattewan blew up because of a bolt giving way, and the steamer had to be laid up. I was wearing the fatal opal all this time without dreaming of its influence. Soon after I put it away, and did not wear it again for some months. A few weeks ago I was wearing the pin, and I saw one of the immigrants in danger, and I saved him from falling overboard. He misunderstood my kindly intentions and services, and we got into a fight, in which he nearly kicked my face off."

Hampton will bear the marks of the immigrant's kicks as long as he lives. He recited many other instances of the fatal influences and the ill luck attending the opal, and concluded a long list by saying that he was wearing the pin, and while holding the wheel of the Shackamaxon the wheel slipped and threw him across the wheelhouse and nearly killed him. He says that is the last time he will wear the unlucky jewel.

Captain Butler of the Shackamaxon had heard so much about the hoodoo opal that he asked to see it, and handled it freely. He says that on that same evening something went wrong with his daughter's piano while she was playing for him, and the instrument, which cost $375, has since been practically useless.

Waste of Gold.

It is not generally known, even in California, that hundreds of thousands of pounds in gold are annually taken from the rude heaps of base looking quartz by the flowing of water over huge piles of broken rocks that contain the precious metal. The water used by the miners is charged with a simple chemical which has the potency to dissolve gold and hold it in solution. This is cyanide of potassium, a poisonous drug, which ferrets out the minutest particles of the metal. During the last five years the process has been almost universally adopted, and more than $20,000,000 has thus been recovered.

Yucatan Is Advancing.

Yucatan has always been considered among the most advanced states of Mexico in education. She has been in constant intercourse with the outside world since the days of the conquest. Schools have attained a high order since the advent of independence.

African Dwarfs.

Among Dr. Donaldson Smith's discoveries in the region of Lake Rudolph is that of the existence of fifteen new tribes of Africans, one of them of dwarfs, none over five feet in height.

Worth $600 in Cash.

A woman in Pittsburg, Pa., sold her husband the other day to a former sweetheart for $90 in cash, a pair of diamond earrings, a diamond ring and a diamond pin.

BATTLE OF RAT AND SNAKE.

In Which the Rat Comes Out Second Best.

A unique rat-killing match occurred during the voyage of the steamer Alameda, which arrived from Australia yesterday, says the San Francisco Examiner. The battle was between a rat and a snake, and the snake won the fight through superior science and good generalship.

The reptile is the property of B. Rey, one of the passengers, who has been touring the colonies for some time. It is about five feet in length and the body is perhaps an inch and a half in diameter in the middle.

About two weeks ago the owner of the pet decided that it was time for him to eat. A rat was caught in a trap and then word was sent over the ship that there was to be fun. The rat-trap was taken into the smoking-room and a string tied to the leg of the rat, while Mr. Rey had his pet brought out.

The rat and the reptile surveyed each other calmly for a few moments, the string on the leg of the former being given full play and the snake lying on the floor at full length, with his head elevated just the least bit.

The rat made a sudden nip at his enemy's head and, missing it, jumped back. The snake dodged and waited for another feint. It came very quickly, Mr. Rat missing again and getting back to his corner with alacrity, where he squatted and wondered what he ought to do next. The head of the snake began moving slowly to and fro. Then, like a flash of lightning, it shot out, and the reptile's fangs were fastened in the neck of the rodent. Round and round through the air whirled the supple body, and in less time than it takes to tell it the snake was coiled about the rat.

The reptile did not relinquish his grasp on his victim for five or six minutes, by which time the rat was dead. The snake then slowly uncoiled and proceeded to devour its quarry. He stretched out at full length on the floor and swallowed the rodent head first. The snake is at the Palace Hotel with Mr. Rey.

HIS KINDNESS REPAID.

An Old Woman Gives Her Benefactor, a Brooklyn Man, $300,000.

About four years ago Henry Lewis, a confectioner, who lives with his wife and six children at 52 Floyd street, Brooklyn, E. D., found an old woman sitting on the stoop of his house, says the New York Recorder. She was poorly dressed and evidently without friends. As she showed evidence of culture he invited her to his home. She accepted and Mrs. Lewis refused to let her go.

The old woman remained with them until six months ago, when Lewis found it a difficult matter to support his family. Then she told him she would not continue to be a burden on them and insisted on going to the poorhouse at Flatbush, where she remained until a few weeks ago, when she returned to the Lewises.

She had gone away comparatively a pauper, but returned worth $300,000, which she has turned over to Lewis for his kindness in taking her in and caring for her when she was without a friend.

The neighbors all know of Lewis' good luck. On Tuesday he started for the surrogate's office in Brooklyn to lay claim to the fortune, which had been left by a brother of the old woman. The discovery that she was heir to the money was made when the surrogate of San Francisco inquired for her through the Brooklyn surrogate and it was discovered that she was an inmate of the poorhouse.

A reporter called at Lewis' house last night, but found that all the family, including the old woman, had gone to a reception at some relative's house. All the neighbors declared that they had heard of Lewis' good luck and were satisfied of its truthfulness. None of them could remember the name of the old woman, who, they said, intended making her home with Lewis until she died.

To Make Calf's Liver Rn Civet.

Among meat courses calf's liver en civet makes a nice change. Eight ounces of liver sliced half an inch thick and four of very thinly sliced bacon, one Spanish onion, and a pinch of dried herbs will be required. Flour the slices of liver and fry lightly on both sides; transfer to a stew pan, with the bacon, previously fried, on top; slice the onion and fry in the bacon fat; sprinkle these over the liver and bacon; add the seasoning and herbs; pour the fat from the frying pan, rinse it out with a half pint of stock, and pour this over all. Cover with a close lid and simmer slowly for three-quarters of an hour.

Poets.

Some poets think that all the themes for poets have been exhausted and that there is no room for poets in the future. It is not so. Noble themes are plenty and all that we need to do is to break the surface and scrape away the dust and mire and we will find much to portray in melody.—Rev. Dr. Lorimer.

Apple Product of Illinois.

Illinois makes the claim that in three years she will be the greatest apple producing state on the continent. Orchards containing from 10,000 to 15,000 trees have been planted in the southern part of the state, and are said to be coming on in fine shape.

A Profitable Industry.

A woman of Covington, Ky., is carrying on a profitable and unique little industry. She raises Angora cats of high breed. They require a great deal of careful attention, but are worth on an average $50 a pair.